



news and information  
for employees of the  
City of Saint Paul

**April 5, 2002**

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*City Update*

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# *City Update*

[www.ci.stpaul.mn.us/cityupdate](http://www.ci.stpaul.mn.us/cityupdate)

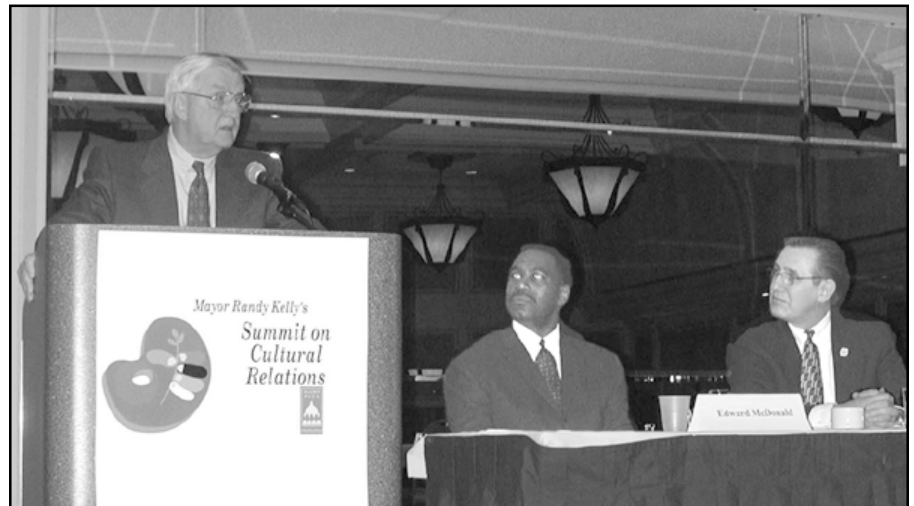
## **Saint Paul's first Cultural Relations Summit inspires 65 potential goals**

The City's first Summit on Cultural Relations was very well organized and well attended. Many City employees helped organize the event. The Summit produced scores of ideas for ways to improve cultural relations in Saint Paul.

A highlight of the Summit was a keynote address by former Vice-President Walter F. Mondale.

Eleven panels convened at the Radisson Riverfront Hotel on Monday, March 18th. Hundreds of spectators joined them to add their ideas to the discussions.

Short statements of the ideas brought forth at the Summit are listed below. For more complete information, see [www.ci.stpaul.mn.us/mayor/culturalrelations](http://www.ci.stpaul.mn.us/mayor/culturalrelations).



Former Vice-President Walter F. Mondale addresses the crowd at the Summit on Cultural Relations. At right are Edward McDonald, Director of Affirmative Action, (who, with Anne Briseño of the Mayor's Office, coordinated the Summit's panel discussions), and Mayor Kelly.

## *Suggested cultural Relations Goals*

### **Multicultural Communities and the Role of Fair, Safe, and Affordable Housing**

- ▶ Maintain current housing stock
- ▶ Larger housing units to be culturally sensitive
- ▶ More truly affordable to low income
- ▶ People at Planning and Economic Development "who look like us"
- ▶ Review, regulate rental housing practices

### **Cultural Relations in Our Neighborhoods**

- ▶ City projects should be much more inclusive of cultural and ethnic groups
- ▶ Importance of knowing and educating new residents on their rights
- ▶ City departments need to reflect cultural diversity
- ▶ More venues to learn more about our neighbors

see CULTURAL RELATIONS on p. 3

[www.ci.stpaul.mn.us](http://www.ci.stpaul.mn.us)

*Places to go. Things to do.*

[ilovesaintpaul.com](http://ilovesaintpaul.com)

# First 'Living Green Expo' touts environmental choices

Do you yearn for the really good life — simple, satisfying and sustainable, not just for you but for future generations? Then plan to attend Minnesota's first Living Green Expo, a free April 27 Earth Week family event exploring fun, food, earth-friendliness and future trends in workshops, exhibits and demonstrations.

The Living Green Expo, scheduled for the State Capitol Grounds and the Armory, will feature information on:

- Transportation: alternative and hybrid cars, new fuels, mass transportation, biking and carpooling;
- Home energy use: energy-saving and cost-cutting energy ideas;
- Renewable energy: residential solar power, wind power and geothermal energy;
- Home building and remodeling: green design, recycled and sustainable building materials;
- Food: organic, sustainable and locally grown foods;



*New technology*



*Green design*



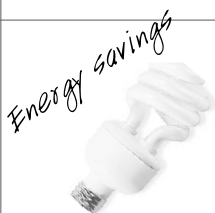
*Healthy food*



*Green gardening*



*Cleaner cars*



*Energy savings*



- Yard and garden: chemical-free gardens and lawns, landscaping for wildlife and water quality, composting;
- Recreation: hiking, biking, camping, parks and gardens;
- Household products/practices: earth-friendly cleaners, recycling, water conservation, durable goods;
- Arts and culture: visual arts, music, storytelling, fashion; and

• Sustainability concepts: voluntary simplicity, spirituality and the environment, green careers.

The Community Garden Fair and the Food and Farm Festival share the space and run concurrently with the Living Green Expo.

Sponsors include state and local agencies, environmental groups, food organizations and businesses. Exhibitors must demonstrate how products or processes reduce environmental impacts.

Free event parking, as well as secure bike parking, are available for participants.

For more information, as well as updates on sponsors and exhibitors, visit [www.livinggreenexpo.org](http://www.livinggreenexpo.org) or contact Ned Brooks, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, (651) 296-8709.

For exhibitor information, call Krista Leraas, Alliance for Sustainability, 612-331-1099.

## 2002 Spring Bond Sale is successful

The Office of Financial Services completed its annual spring bond sale on February 27th. This year's sale included \$19,000,000 capital improvement bonds, \$1,000,000 special assessment bonds, \$1,915,000 special assessment refunding bonds and \$2,335,000 taxable tax increment refunding bonds. The city's superior credit

ratings of AAA (the highest possible rating) by Standard & Poor's, and Aa2 by Moody's were both reaffirmed.



The sale itself was very successful, achieving record-low interest rates. The ten-year capital improvement bonds sold at an interest cost of 3.71% and the twelve-year special assessment street improvement bonds sold for 3.92%. The refunding portion of this issue generated over \$270,000 in savings for the city and the taxable tax increment refunding bonds were sold with an interest cost of 5.28%, providing savings to the city of more than \$335,000.

Way to go, Financial Services!

*Saint Paul, Minnesota. Founded in 1849. Rediscovered in 2000*



Hmong-American Mutual Assistance Association "Butterflies"

**CULTURAL RELATIONS** from p. 1

- ▶ Government needs to be more accessible to cultural and ethnic groups
- ▶ Equitable Hispanic business inclusion in the upcoming Mississippi River commercial expansion

**Media Responsibility with Promoting Cultural Relations**

- ▶ More persons of color in the media business
- ▶ Tell the positive stories instead of just the negative
- ▶ Sensitivity training of media personnel
- ▶ Educate the community to establish a relationship with media outlet
- ▶ Support community papers
- ▶ Contacts with minority professional organizations
- ▶ More sources when doing news stories
- ▶ Community responsibility to be pro-active in its response to stories

**Maximizing Cultural Inclusiveness in the Economic Mainstream**

- ▶ Look at minority representation in City jobs beyond Affirmative Action and Human Rights
- ▶ Develop or support development of multi-cultural diversity center that would serve as a clearinghouse for community resources
- ▶ Encourage minority business development in downtown, riverfront and other areas focused for development
- ▶ Advocate that apprenticeship programs not have a citizenship requirement
- ▶ City services like licensing and permits available in other languages
- ▶ Support more women of color in leadership positions

**Cultural Relations and Public Safety**

- ▶ Cultural competency training for all criminal justice/public safety systems

- ▶ Need for more competent unbiased interpreter services
- ▶ Need for comprehensive empirical data collection
- ▶ Acknowledge institutional racism with money to be used for diversity and education
- ▶ Community Cultural relations committee
- ▶ More partnerships between public safety and community
- ▶ Appointments need to be top-notch

**Cultural relations and health issues**

- ▶ Trained medical interpreters
- ▶ Cultural barrier assessment specialist
- ▶ Mandate health providers to have cultural training
- ▶ Encouraging development of health care professional from communities of color, initiate scholarships
- ▶ Address mental health issues in communities of color

**Youth Challenges and Opportunities in a Multicultural Society**

- ▶ Ask hard questions
- ▶ Respect and communication
- ▶ Multi-Cultural curriculum and teacher training and staffing
- ▶ Youth Participation in Community Councils and Commissions
- ▶ Support groups (i.e., community centers)
- ▶ Volunteer opportunities in elementary and junior high school
- ▶ City-funded support for college
- ▶ Encourage urban/suburban interaction around diversity issues

**Multiculturalism and Institutions of Education**

- ▶ Teachers need skills to teach diverse student bodies and families
- ▶ Train and support leadership in education to supervise and enhance cultural competency of staff
- ▶ Curriculum needs to include all cultures and reflect this in classroom environment
- ▶ Promote service learning as instructional strategy to address multicultural issues
- ▶ Increase outreach by Saint Paul's institutions of higher education with support for those learning English

**Government, Culture and Power**

- ▶ Register new and first-time residents
- ▶ Monitor political policies that nurture disparities in education, health care and judicial systems
- ▶ Use state councils for government recruitment and making appointment recommendations to Mayor
- ▶ Better reflection of other cultural and ethnic history in school curriculum

CULTURAL RELATIONS from p. 3

► Community needs to be at the table from the beginning including new leadership and people

## Cultural Relations and Racism in the Faith Community

- Identify key leaders in City Departments and establish anti-racism training team
- Host a Faith Forum
- Create a program of cultural learning for all City Departments
- Faith community should take leadership responsibility, not Administration or Government
- City should be inclusive in its event planning

## Cultural Relations and Senior Citizen Services

- Transportation for employment and other services, as well as adequate funding
- Outreach to Seniors of all cultures, communicating message that "We Value Seniors"
- Affordable health care and prescriptions
- Retain Senior Services funding
- Education of service providers and seniors about how to better communicate



## Quicker FSA Reimbursement

Faxed Flexible Spending Account (FSA) claims to Stanton Group are given first priority and are usually in participants' accounts within 24 hours from the time Stanton receives them. Mailed claims tend to take up to a week before they show up in the participants' accounts.

The reason for this is that when a faxed claim is received by Stanton, it is automatically scanned in, and the claim is audited right on their system. With mailed claims, each page of the claim needs to be scanned in, resulting in a much slower process.

So... if you want quicker reimbursement from your FSA, fax your claims to Stanton at 763-278-4004.

## Another Change...

FSA claim forms are no longer included with your reimbursement check. You can obtain claim forms two different ways:

- 1) Download a copy from Stanton Group's website at [www.Stanton-Group.com](http://www.Stanton-Group.com). Click on "Download Forms," and select "FSA Reimbursement Request (Claim) Form;" or
- 2) Call Stanton Group's Customer Service at (763) 278-4312 and request the number of claim forms you would like mailed to your home.



## Help Restore Financial Balance to Your Life

Sound familiar?

- You are only paying the minimum due on your accounts.
- You are putting off paying one bill to cover another bill.
- Your payments exceed your income each month.
- You are charging one credit card to pay another credit card.
- You are taking cash advances to pay your charges.

If you are experiencing any of the above situations, or would like to learn how to better manage your money, CCCU can help.

CCCU has partnered with Auriton Solutions, a non-profit agency that helps people build a better financial future by offering solutions to their current financial situation and educating them on how to achieve their financial goals. Auriton offers free in person and telephone counseling to consumers.

If you would like more information on how Auriton can help you, call the TeleCenter at 651 225-2700 or 1-800-223-2801.

City & County is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration

## City job openings as of April 5th, 2002

Application deadline	Job title	Yearly salary rate	Exam date
Open	Parks & Recreation Assistant (seasonal/part-time)	\$5.50 per hr	See Job Ann
Open	Parks Worker I (seasonal/full & part-time)	See Job Ann	See Job Ann
04/09/02	Pumping Engineer II (prom)	\$21.24 per hr	See Job Ann
Open	Refectory Attendant (seasonal/part-time )	\$9.70 per hr	See Job Ann
Open	Senior Pool Attendant (seasonal)	\$9.25 per hr	See Job Ann
Open	Swimming Pool Supervisor (seasonal)	\$10.75 per hr	See Job Ann
04/08/02	Utility Aide	\$10.30 per hr	See Job Ann
Open	Water Safety Instructor & Life Guard (seasonal)	\$8.25 & \$7.75 per hr	See Job Ann

Please Note: Mayor Kelly has announced a hiring freeze for the City of Saint Paul. The testing and application process will be continuing for certain positions, and hiring decisions will be made on a case by case basis. The City does anticipate that some exceptions to the freeze will be approved, particularly for certain seasonal/summer positions. You are encouraged to continue your interest in City employment by completing the job application process.

Note: Call or visit the Office of Human Resources to receive the official job announcement for these positions. Location: 400 City Hall Annex. Phone: 651-266-6500 (TTY/TDD 651-266-6501) or visit the web site: [www.ci.stpaul.mn.us/jobopenings](http://www.ci.stpaul.mn.us/jobopenings). For jobs announced after March 28th, please call our 24-hour job line, 651-266-6502.